



**Jewish Federation Association
of Connecticut (JFACT)**

March 3, 2022

**PLEASE SUPPORT SB 217 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT
WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND REQUIRING
DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING SYSTEM, BEST PRACTICES AND
A MODEL INVESTIGATION POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS
REGARDING HATE CRIMES.**

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, which advocates on behalf of the 7 Jewish Federations and their beneficiary agencies across Connecticut, respectfully requests your support of SB 217 AAC A Hate Crimes Investigate Unit within the State Police. The FBI, as well as the Anti-Defamation League, have been reporting a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the state, country and world over the past few years.

While Connecticut has one of the strongest hate crimes laws in the country, there is more that the General Assembly can do. For example, as a member of the Hate Crimes Advisory Council, we have been looking into why hate crimes happen, how they are reported and what can be done to prevent hate crimes. This legislation would implement many of the findings our council has uncovered. SB 217 would establish a hate crimes unit, a hate crimes reporting system and model investigation policy which would give law enforcement tools to combat hate crimes that they currently do not have.

In addition, this legislation would establish a state and municipal telephone hotlines and web sites that can be used to make reports. This is vital because, sometimes, individuals are hesitant to report a hate incident for fear of retribution.

This legislation is vital to combatting the rise in hate in our state. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Bloom
Executive Director



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Constituent Jewish Federations

Eastern Connecticut, Upper Fairfield, Greenwich, Greater Hartford, Greater New Haven, Greater Stamford-New Canaan-Darien, Western Connecticut